

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

In New Orleans...

Itawamba BSU'ers step into mean streets for real eye-opener on sharing good news with a lost world

By Wayne Vandiver

A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, for they are spiritually appraised (1 Cor. 2:14).

This verse became very real to a team of seven from Itawamba Community College (ICC) Baptist Student Union, who travelled to New Orleans for their spring break mission trip.

Christians really need to be in the Word and study daily. Seek God. Watch God's work. Join him. Let him use you. That's just an inkling of what this trip taught me.

— Carolyn Peters
Tupelo

It was almost as though you could see Satan and his demons... laughing because of the power they had over these people. I am so thankful I went. The whole week was one big blessing.

— Landis McBride
Baldwyn

They had two main responsibilities: helping the ministers of Vieux Carre' Church witness on Bourbon Street each night, and painting in the Brantley Mission Center each day.

Vieux Carre' Church is located one block off Bourbon Street and can house a group of 60 in its dorms.

The group stayed in these dorms along with Southwestern Seminary students who came to lead in revival services in the church.

The ICC group led three chapel services at Brantley Center, a six-story building in downtown New Orleans that serves as a shelter for up to 400 homeless people on any given night. It is also the home of a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

The Lord really used the ICC teams in these chapel services. They shared testimonies, sang, and did some skits in each service. A total of 10 people accepted Christ in these services!

Besides the chapel services, the most meaningful experiences happened each night on Bourbon Street.

As thousands of people passed by — most with a beer in hand — a person could see in dramatic fashion what is meant by "a lost world."

Every type of person imaginable could be seen on this street. There were college students on spring break. There were business executives. There were street kids who wore rings in their noses, jaws, lips, ears, eyebrows, and tongues. There were homeless people.

They were all there — and most of them wanted nothing to with a gospel tract.

Some would reject a tract with "No

thanks, I'm gay."

Others would not even acknowledge the presence of the person trying to give them a tract.

Some would stop and talk. Some wanted to argue. They said Jesus was just a good man or that the Bible was not true because it was written by men.

One girl even said she believed God used evolution to create the world.

Others were just curious why anyone would be out on Bourbon Street passing out tracts and telling people about Jesus.

Some just wanted to tell the team members how wonderful they were for doing such a thing.

No matter why people stopped to talk, the BSU'ers sought to share the gospel with each one.

On most of the nights the ICC group went out to witness, one or all of the associate pastors of Vieux Carre' Church would go with them. The church considers street evangelism to be its primary ministry.

The pastors placed a large wooden cross in the middle of the street and used it to witness to passersby.

I saw scared, timid college students become bold witnesses in just one night on the street. It is definitely one of the most life-changing ministries in which a Christian can be involved.

I think it's the realization that the big river of people flowing down the street in front of you is in such desperate need of the gospel, you simply must tell them.

The need overcomes the fear.

As a result of being out on Bourbon Street each night, one of the team members was able to lead a college student to Christ.

The young man was from Venezuela and was on the track team at the University of New Orleans.

The director and students of ICC Baptist Student Union wish to thank all the churches that support them and help to make opportunities like this possible.

Vandiver is BSU director at ICC.

I thought I could say "Jesus loves you" and everyone would turn from their wicked ways, but that wasn't how it was. I felt compassion for them. When a Muslim told me, "We'll see who gets to heaven," it nearly ripped my heart out.

— Eric Chestnutt,
Belmont

I know that regardless of what a person is longing for, only Jesus is the answer. As Christians, it is our duty to pray and ask God to show each of us how we can reach out and help those around us.

— Laurie Buskirk
Pontotoc

Cuban churches expanding

Cuba's Protestant churches are growing at an explosive rate despite an attendant rise in police actions that may mean a government crackdown is on the way.

Church representatives in the communist island nation report that some congregations are growing as much as 200% per year, attracting young professionals who are concerned about the future of Cuban society.

Christians are worried, however, by such actions as the arrest of prominent youth leader and physician Eliezer Veguilla. Security officials promised that Veguilla's case would be resolved by Feb. 15 of this year, but he remains in custody with no indication of when he will be released. Veguilla is one of 11 church leaders who have been arrested and are being held in Cuban jails.

Assaults and beatings of church members are also spiraling upward, and religious leaders fear that whatever freedoms they have been granted may be short-lived.

School board unfair

The Fairfax County (Va.) School Board must immediately cease its policy of charging churches as much as 500% more in rental fees than other non-profit groups pay, a federal appeals court has ruled.

The appeals court sent the case back to district court with instructions to assess damages to Fairfax Covenant Church, which is seeking more than \$340,000 in back rent and interest.

School officials said their policy of charging higher rental rates to churches which use school facilities was meant to encourage those churches to build their own facilities.

The court ruled, however, that the policy of "rent discrimination against religious organizations moves the school board into a nonneutral, anti-religion corner by burdening free speech and free exercise of religion."

The school board has announced that it plans to appeal the court's decision.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Insurance settlements totalling \$2.1 million will enable members of First Church, Water Valley, to restore facilities that were severely damaged when an Easter Eve tornado roared through the heart of downtown Water Valley.

20 years ago

First Church, Coffeeville, claims both first-place trophies in the state Bible Drill tournament — only the second church in the state's history to sweep the competition in one year. Ray Boxx and Johnny Jones are the swift-handed winners.

50 years ago

Mendenhall Church continues to be a leader in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, having just remodeled its building, added an intermediate wing, purchased a grand piano, and upped the pastor's salary by \$300 per year.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Mid-stream, deep water Baptists

For a dozen years I have deplored the manner used by certain Southern Baptist leaders seeking to force you to be "with us" or "go with them." I prefer to be a Southern Baptist without a political bent toward the SBC leadership or the other side. The idea is to be a middle-of-the-road, mid-stream Baptist.

Now Cecil Sherman, chief executive officer for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), is adopting much the same strategy. In the CBF's recent General Assembly in Greensboro, N.C., Sherman declared four warnings for his troops. He dealt with missions or theological education polarization, the CBF "liberal label," which he denied, and the "bash and bash-back" policy. He said, "We are mainline Baptists who believe the Bible... always have." He would have done well to stop there.

The third warning was "beware the pious dodge of neutrality," referring to middle-of-the-road Baptists.

"I can understand the people on the other side better than I can understand them," he said. "If you

can watch Grandma get knocked down in front of the K-Mart and somebody steals her purse, and then go back and say, 'You know, Grandma shouldn't be out,' I don't understand you."

Exactly how Grandma's being knocked down and the SBC-CBF square-off can be compared is beyond me. Could it be that both sides have forgotten Grandma and are fighting over the purse?

The mandatory alignment with the fundamental/conservative SBC or with the moderate/conservative CBF is neither desirable nor baptistic. I'm not enthralled with either one. Both groups are parties in the SBC and are vying for the loyalty of those in mid-stream.

The laity of the SBC is beginning to be aroused and if so, both groups could be brought in line. The fundamental/conservative group is not likely to win back the CBF group; they have mutually written each other out of the family. There is something heady about a new beginning, a smaller group, a sounding of the trumpet to be loosed from the old.

Still, as long as we have the

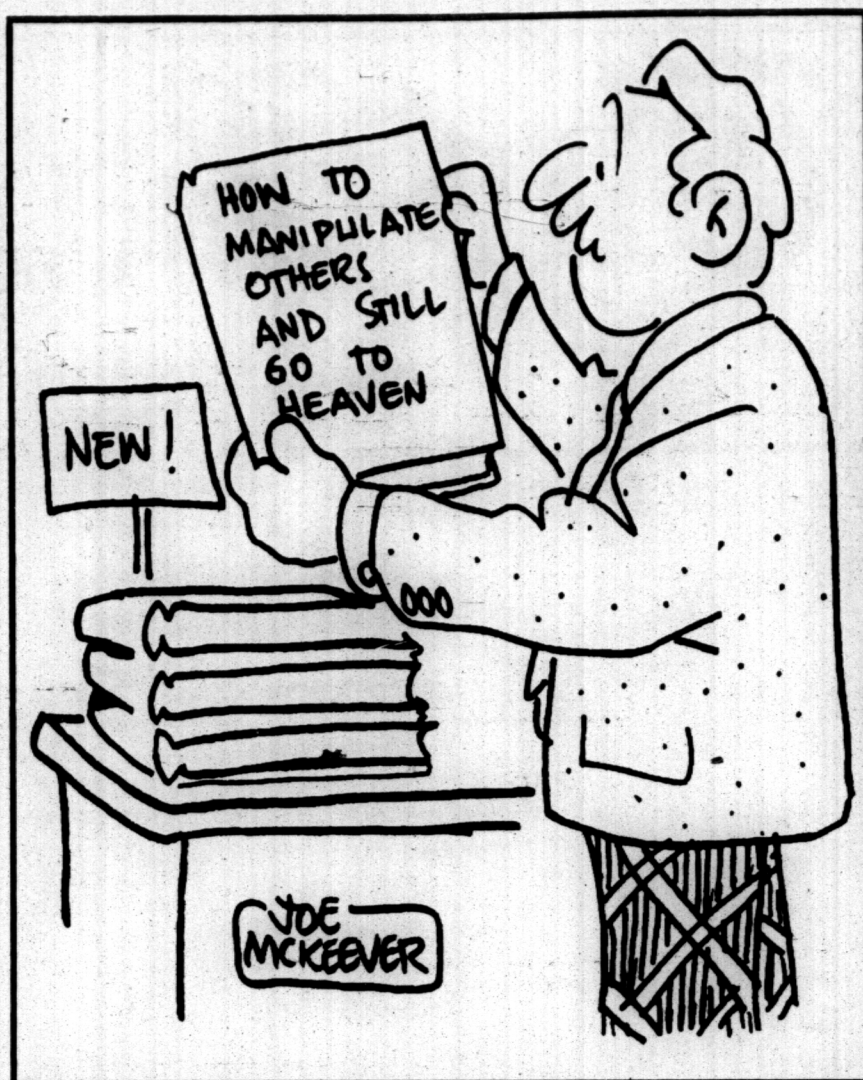
Gospel, there must be a light of reconciliation down the dark tunnel. Until then we just have to suffer the lamentations of both sides.

Bill Hull, provost of Samford University in Birmingham, spoke to the CBF declaring, "The road out of yesterday is littered with the wreckage of our defeats... bitter memories of angry confrontations, of painful ruptures, of cowardly betrayals."

Then, facing the other direction, he said, "Equally dangerous is a string of unbroken successes that may fill the heart with complacency and pride and plant there the subtle suggestion that we have learned the best way to do everything."

I'm completely in agreement with Hull when he asked, "Is everything we do animated by the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord, not the goal of winning a 'denominational war'?"

Can Christ transcend the conservative/liberal debate that has been brewing for 400 years in the post-Enlightenment age? Until we can say, "This one thing I do — attain Christ," we are not ready to do anything else.



THE FRAGMENTS

Self-sabotage

Graduation time is upon us. *Above and Beyond* by Jay Strack is filled with wisdom and advice for the tassle crowd. He quotes Robert Louis Stevenson, "We must eventually all sit down at the banquet table of our own consequences."

Then he quotes Gloria Esteban, who sang, "We seal our fate by the choices we make."

Strack looks into the future and offers some sage advice:

"Do not choose to lose."

"Do not take your clue from the crowd."

"Do not be detoured by discouragement."

"Do not settle for the ordinary when the extraordinary is so close."

"Do not settle for surviving when you can succeed."

"Do not settle for natural when you can experience the supernatural."

"Do not settle for mere fascination with the future."

Jay has spoken in 3,800 public schools and hundreds of crusades. He has earned the right to be heard. His frequent trips to Mississippi have blessed all of us. This is good advice for the graduate and for all who want their lives to count. — GH

Guest opinion...

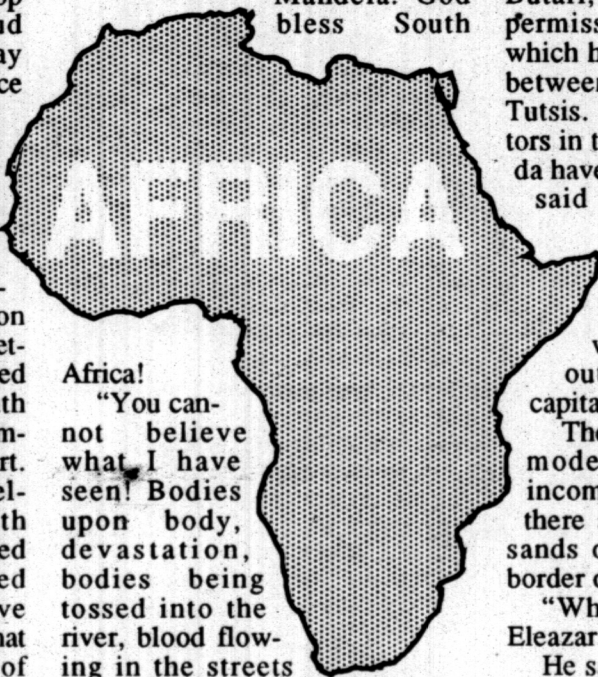
Africa is rejoicing, Africa is crying

By Denton Lotz

The joy of free elections in South Africa was so great that even secular reporters had to use biblical phrases to express the immense joy of a people coming from darkness into light. Bishop Tutu's smiling face and loud proclamation, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice therein and be glad," summed up the emotions of a people on the move from slavery to freedom, from captivity through the Red Sea to the Promised Land.

Baptists in South Africa participated in the joy. On election day the British Baptists were meeting in England and were connected by satellite to Baptists in South Africa who thanked the world family of Baptists for their support. BWA President Knud Wumpelmann, joined by BWA youth leader Regina Claas, represented the BWA as observers. Indeed Baptists around the world have prayed for this day and rejoice that finally the oppressive system of apartheid is dead and buried. Now we must work for peace and reconciliation. Now nation-building on the basis of equality and justice

must begin. Indeed now the swords must be turned into plowshares so that indeed the day of the Lord will continue. Please pray for South Africa and its new leader, Nelson Mandela. God bless South



Africa!

"You cannot believe what I have seen! Bodies upon body, devastation, bodies being tossed into the river, blood flowing in the streets and rivers. Neighbors were killing neighbors. It was terrible."

So goes a conversation we had with Eleazar Ziherambere, BWA

regional secretary for Africa, from Butari, Rwanda. His life was threatened and he had escaped to a neighboring country. Before fleeing from his home in Butari, Ziherambere was given permission to hold a service at which he called for reconciliation between the warring Hutus and Tutsis. While many Baptist pastors in the southern part of Rwanda have been killed, Ziherambere said the lives of many other Baptist pastors, including his own, have been spared because they were meeting in Butari when the fighting broke out in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

The total devastation of this model country, Rwanda, is incomprehensible. Even today there are thousands upon thousands of refugees crossing the border over into Tanzania.

"What can we do?" I asked Eleazar.

He said, "Now all we can do is pray!"

And pray we will. But you know and I know that a massive program of rebuilding will have

to take place. The Baptist World Alliance stands prepared to channel your gifts for the alleviation of a suffering people and thousands of refugees. With Rwanda, we cry, "How long, O Lord, how long?" Pray for peace in Rwanda.

Baptists in the Liberia Baptist Missionary Educational Convention met in their 80th session April 13-17. After all of the suffering they have endured because of the civil war in their country, "our churches are experiencing the 'Elijah-under-the-juniper-tree' syndrome, and wondering whether we are all alone," said Emile D.E. Sam-Peal, executive secretary. In his response the

BWA general secretary told them, "numerous letters to government officials and the United Nations have been written on their behalf" and the BWA has encouraged mission agencies to help.

Indeed Africa is rejoicing and crying at the same time. And so is the whole world. The cross is indeed a sign of our sorrow and our rejoicing. And thus we call humanity to Christ and his cross: "See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?"

Lotz is general secretary, Baptist World Alliance.

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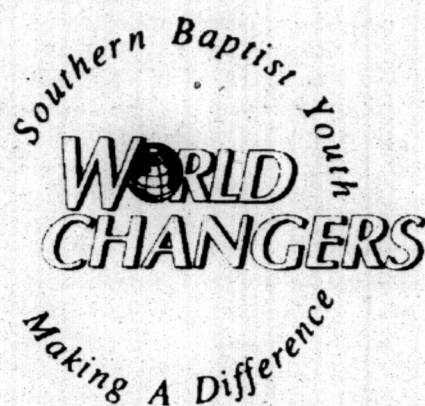
Crew chiefs, young workers needed for World Changers projects in state

Crew chiefs are needed to supervise young volunteers in Mississippi this summer as part of the World Changers program to involve young people in hands-on missions experiences.

More than 600 young people are registered for the two World Changers projects in Mississippi: July 2-9 in Marks (North Delta Association), and July 16-23, in Vicksburg (Warren Association).

Each team of 12-15 young people will work under a construction coordinator, or crew chief. Crew chiefs are needed for both Mississippi weeks. Due to the missions nature of World Changers, no honorarium is received but travel, lodging, food, insurance expenses,

and orientation are covered for the crew chiefs.

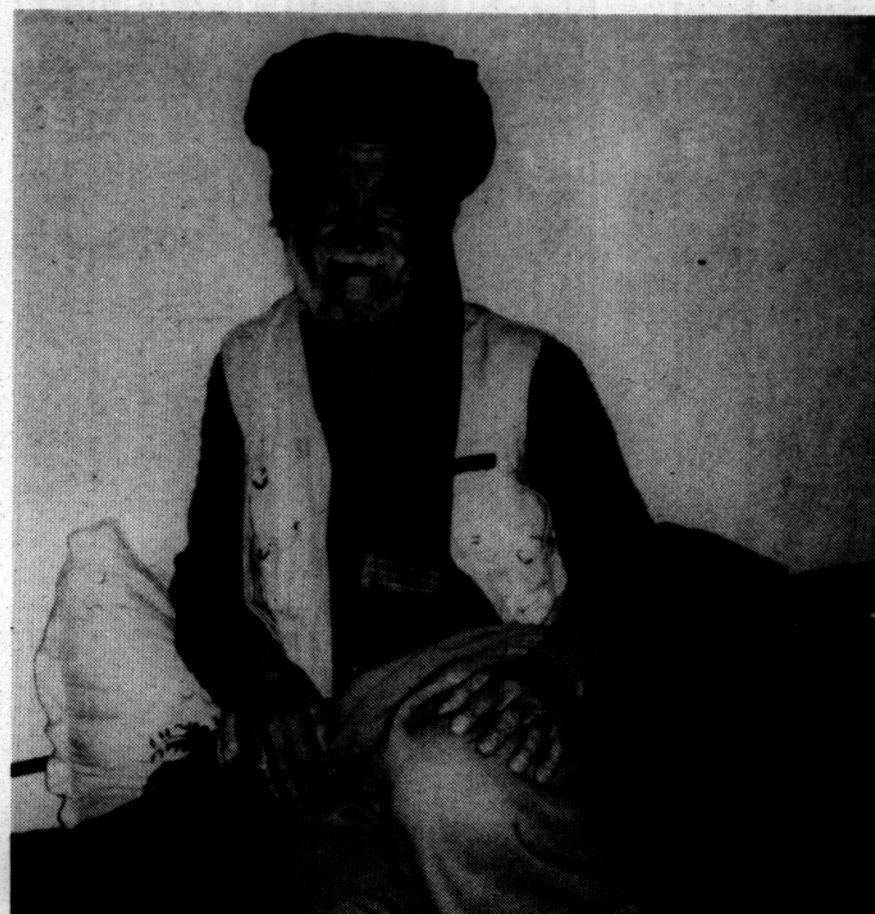


To request an application for crew chief, contact the Mississippi

Baptist Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530; telephone (601) 968-3800.

Young people may register for a World Changers week, which costs \$235 and includes lodging, meals, limited insurance, and spiritual enrichment materials, by calling the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission at (901) 272-2461.

"This will be a rewarding experience for both youths and adults as we extend our Christian testimony and friendship in a mission setting," said Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department.



World Day of Prayer

Southern Baptists are being asked to pray for the Hazara people of Afghanistan, like this "baba" — a common term for elderly men among the Hazara. The 1994 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, scheduled from 6 p.m. May 20 to 6 p.m. May 21, will join Southern Baptists and other "Great Commission" Christians in praying and fasting for the Hazara, who live mostly in the central mountains in Afghanistan. Only about 500 Christians live among the world's 1 million Hazara, who are overwhelmingly Muslim. The Hazara live tough lives as mountain farmers, shepherds, and goatherds. Christian researchers estimate they are one of war-ravaged Afghanistan's most impoverished ethnic groups, and few have had the chance to hear the Christian gospel. Individuals or churches can obtain a Hazara information packet by calling the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at 1-800-866-FMB1. (BP photo)

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Mississippi missionaries prepare for border dash

By Marty Croll

SANAA, Yemen (BP) — A Scud missile attack, the sound of sporadic gunfire for three nights running, and the promise of no more scheduled evacuation flights caused 11 more Southern Baptist workers to leave embattled Yemen.

The latest evacuations brought to 16 the number of Southern Baptist workers who have left because of an intensifying civil war in the Red Sea nation. Thirty Southern Baptist personnel including Robert and Beverly Thomas of Senatobia, remain in the country at Jibla Baptist Hospital near Ibb.

Months of clashes within the country's military broke into open warfare May 4 in the midst of feuding between the president, from the north, and his vice president, from the south.

Six Southern Baptist workers hitched rides on a British Hercules transport plane out of Sanaa, the capital city, and landed in London May 12. Five others were to board a private oil plane to Cairo May 13.

On board the flights were the last five of eight Southern Baptist workers assigned to live in Sanaa. The other three evacuated May 7 and 9.

Foreign governments were scheduling no more evacuation flights out of Yemen. But the only Southern Baptist workers left in the country — those stationed at Jibla Baptist Hospital in a remote mountainous area several hours south of Sanaa — said they have

enough cars and gasoline to make a run for Saudi Arabia if things heat up.

Unless it becomes necessary to leave, the workers plan to keep the hospital in full operation. So far they have seen no cases of war injury. Fighting has been mostly limited to military action in a corridor between Sanaa and the southern port city of Aden, where southern forces have consolidated their power.

There were signs that could be changing, however. A Scud missile fired into a heavily populated area of Sanaa May 12 reportedly killed or wounded 53 people,

dragging civilians into the war. Foreigners who evacuated said the blast blew out windows all over the city. Other Soviet-built Scuds had been fired by the south but had failed to explode.

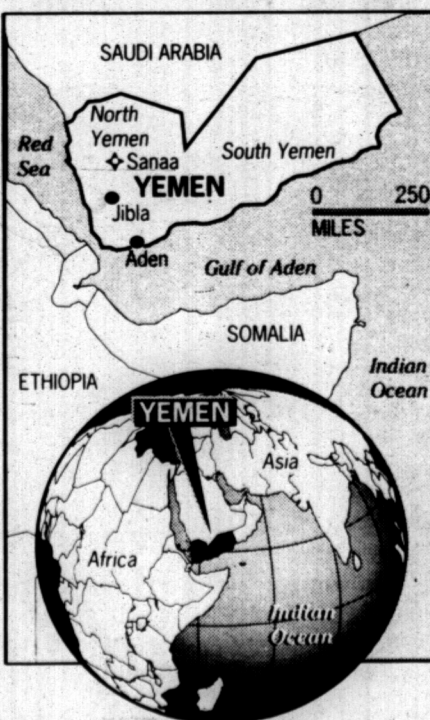
This Scud, however, landed at about 1 a.m. and destroyed several mud-and-brick homes. The area of destruction was about a mile away from the homes of Southern Baptist workers Stephen and Kandi Edwards and Drew and Martha Whitson.

The Whitsons and their four children left Sanaa May 13. So did Al Lindholm, who had sent his wife Edna and their two children out May 9 while he packed for an early furlough. The Edwardses and their three girls were on the British flight May 12.

Apparent calm in the hospital region has been marred by the sound of gunfire throughout the night since May 9. It caused four Southern Baptist workers — Peter and Donna Rush and Alan and Mary Ann Fite — living in the town of Ibb not far from the Jibla hospital compound, to leave the country May 12 with their children. Two single workers — Leslie Durham and Sherry DeVos, living on the 22-acre hospital compound, were to leave May 13.

Authorities in Ibb have issued a 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. But it was unclear whether the gunfire was to enforce that curfew, or simply the sounds of practice sessions for police in Ibb.

Croll writes for FMB.



Miss. College forging future plans as Nobles investigation continues

Student enrollment and gifts to Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton are setting new records, even as the Baptist-affiliated college's community of supporters continues to reel from allegations made against former president Lewis Nobles, according to a pair of copyrighted articles by Jerry Mitchell in the May 15, 1994, edition of The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson.

The newspaper quotes Rory Lee, MC vice-president for institutional advancement, as saying that the school had 3,792 students — 148 more than last year — and that contributions have risen almost \$1 million over the previous year, from \$5.45 million through April 1993, to \$6.4 million through April 1994.

Lee credited tighter oversight and a donor education program for the increased gifts after Nobles, 68, was pressured by the school's board of trustees to resign in August 1993, amid allegations of financial mismanagement and missing donations. He had been in the top spot at MC for 25 years.

Nobles will likely face a federal grand jury in the coming weeks, according to the newspaper, as well as a civil suit on behalf of the

college seeking return of more than \$3 million in donations that the school's lawyers claim was embezzled by Nobles.

Howell W. Todd, 50, was chosen by the board in March of this year to become the new MC president and is expected to be on campus full-time in early July.

Todd, who holds bachelor, masters, and doctorate degrees in mathematics, addressed MC graduates May 14 in ceremonies that closed the 168th academic session at the school. He used the speech to set the tone for his administration.

Acknowledging that MC had been through a difficult year, Todd said he planned to close that chapter in the school's history and look positively toward the future.

"Let there be no doubt about the condition of this institution. Our foundation is solid and we provide a superb education to our students. We value our Baptist heritage and tradition, and we consider it more than a souvenir of the past," Todd said.

"We need to strengthen our resolve, focus our efforts, and position ourselves as an institution for the next century. The building blocks and the energy are here," he pointed out.



Beautification efforts

Fourteen members of Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson, recently spent a work day at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The volunteers planted 30 flats of flowers in beds to help spruce up the campus. Bob Dent, camp manager, says each spring there is plenty of work to do (like painting and roofing cabins, cleaning the pool, clearing campfire sites) in preparation for the summer camp season. Any church looking for a volunteer mission project can call Dent at Camp Garaywa, (601) 924-5062.

Oklahomans tally 60% in vote defeating lottery

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Oklahomans bucked a national trend and fought back a campaign by the state's governor when they resoundingly defeated a state lottery proposal May 10.

With 60% of the vote against state-sponsored gambling, Oklahoma became only the second state in the nation to turn down a lottery in a statewide vote. The first was North Dakota.

There are 38 states with lotteries, including Kansas, Missouri, and Texas, which border Oklahoma. Arkansas and New Mexico do not have lotteries at this time.

Oklahoma's anti-lottery forces were an unusual mix of 13 different groups, including Baptists, Methodists, Unitarians, Catholics, horse racing interests, business leaders, state legislators, and newspapers, from liberal to conservative.

The pro-lottery forces' main spokesman was Gov. David Walters.

Representing Baptist interests in a group called Oklahomans Against the Lottery was Forrest Clauch, a businessman and layman from Country Estates Church in Midwest City, an Oklahoma City suburb. He was assisted by Neva Hill, a member of Graceway Church in Oklahoma City.

Although 200,000 voters signed initiative petitions to vote on a lottery, the final vote was 417,532 (59.8%) to 280,152 against it. It lost in 74 of the state's 77 counties.

Early in the campaign, polls had shown that up to 70% of Oklahomans wanted a lottery, but Clauch said he was not surprised by the final result.

"It matched our prayer," he explained. "A 60-40 vote was the very thing we hoped for. We would have accepted any victory, but we wanted a clear mandate from the people."

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, called the campaign "a tremendous effort for rightness."

"I am so appreciative of the people in Oklahoma who believe in right and morality and Christian concepts, and that our people have done something about it," he said. "This is the first time in a long time that the forces on the right side have successfully fought a questionable moral issue. This ought to encourage the Oklahoma people."

Although Tanner said he felt the lottery could be defeated, the 60% margin surprised him. The vote "gives great encouragement," he said.

Young, others ask Clinton to rescind pro-abortion cable

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President H. Edwin Young and 10 other evangelical Christian leaders have asked President Bill Clinton to overturn a recent U.S. State Department cable seeking greater support from other countries for liberalized abortion policies.

In their letter, the signers, who were led by Focus on the Family President James Dobson and Prison Fellowship Chairman Chuck Colson, criticized a March cable asking diplomatic and consular posts to request foreign governments to endorse the United States' call for increased availability to abortion.

The cable sought support for the United States' position in preparation for the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Population and Development in September in Cairo, Egypt. The cable's distribution preceded a preparatory meeting earlier this month in New York City.

The proposed text for the Cairo

conference, the State Department cable said, is "inadequate, as it only addresses abortion in cases of rape or incest." The United States believes "access to safe, legal, and voluntary abortion is a fundamental right of all women," the cable said.

The evangelicals' letter described the cable as an "unprecedented misuse of our diplomatic corps for political ends." The pressure by the State Department to support liberalized abortion policies often violates other countries' laws, the letter said. The targeted countries "deeply resent what they rightly regard as cultural imperialism," it said.

"A chasm exists between your public pronouncements and the quieter actions of your administration," the letter said. "We plead with you, Mr. President, not to make the United States an exporter of violence and death."

In mid-April, Clinton said he had asked to review the cable, *The Washington Times* reported. He

also said the United States should not fund abortions on unborn babies able to live outside the womb or coercive abortions, according to *The Times*.

In addition to Dobson, Colson, and Young, other signers of the April 22 letter were: Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ; Chuck Swindoll, president of Insight for Living and recently-named president of Dallas Seminary; Billy Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals; James Kennedy, television preacher and pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Brandt Gustavson, president of the National Religious Broadcasters; Joseph Stowell, president of Moody Bible Institute; John Perkins, president of John Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development; and Paul Cedar, president of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

Strode is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Two former Texas presidents support change in CP funding

DALLAS (BP) — Two past presidents of the Baptist General Convention of Texas have endorsed a proposal which recommends a change in that state's Cooperative Program with a primary focus on Texas Baptist causes.

J. Richard "Dick" Maples, pastor of First Church, Bryan, and BGCT president from 1992-93, and Phil Lineberger, pastor of First Church, Tyler, and BGCT president from 1990-91, have endorsed a plan under consideration by the Cooperative Missions Study Committee of the Texas convention.

The recommendation under consideration would require each church to specifically designate how its funds beyond Texas would be distributed and would consider all gifts "Cooperative Program" gifts.

The proposal would allow a

variety of things under "worldwide Baptist causes," including the SBC, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Criswell College, or any other Baptist entity.

"Such a plan, as we have read it, is completely fair to all Texas Baptists, including churches which support the SBC totally, those which support only part of the work of the SBC, and those which are struggling to support the SBC," the two former Texas presidents said in a prepared statement.

However, if adopted, the proposal would dramatically change the longtime Cooperative Program relationship between the churches, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is the distribution point for the CP gifts to SBC agencies.

"The Cooperative Program which was adopted in 1925 is considered by most Southern Baptists to be a God-given method for funding world missions," Chapman said in response to the Texas committee's proposal. "The Texas proposal as released is a far cry from what Southern Baptists have known, cherished, and practiced."

But the two former Texas presidents said the proposal would have a unifying effect, allowing Texas Baptist churches "to remain unified around the BGCT and its current leadership and mission vision."

"Texas Baptists are fragmented regarding the SBC, its leadership, and budget," Maples said. "Texas Baptists, for the most part, want out of SBC politics. This is a way of doing that while respecting the autonomy of each church as well as the autonomy of this state convention."

Agri-missions fellows meet in Belzoni...

Jacksonian, vet Jim Watson elected president of AMF for coming year

Members of the Agricultural Missions Foundation (AMF) elected officers for the coming year and heard reports from two agricultural missionaries during the group's recent annual meeting at First Church, Belzoni.

Jim Watson of Jackson, a veterinarian, was elected president. Watson is a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and the son of Harold and Joyce Watson,

Southern Baptist agricultural missionaries to the Philippines.

Other officers include Frank Prewitt, a catfish farmer from Belzoni, vice president, and Carl Prewitt, pastor of First Church, Byram, and former agricultural missionary to the Philippines, secretary-treasurer.

David Brownfield, agricultural missionary to Ethiopia, and Darrel Garner, agricultural mis-

sionary to Malawi, were featured speakers during the meeting.

AMF was organized 20 years ago and serves as a link between agriculturally-interested individuals in the States and Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. For more information, write Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd., 120 N. Congress, Suite 725, Jackson, MS 39201.



Jim Watson (left) was elected president of the Agricultural Missions Foundation during its recent meeting in Belzoni. Agricultural missionaries David Brownfield (center) and Darrel Garner (right) gave highlights of their work during the gathering.

Tx. Baptist Men's shipment will relieve Kenya's drought

By Ken Camp & Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP) — Delayed delivery to Kenya of a water well-drilling rig proved to be "God's timing" for helping that drought-plagued East African nation, and it could be a boon to Rwandan refugees, according to leaders of the Texas Baptist Men missions organization.

In 1991, Royal Ambassador youths from around the state gave to support TBM's "Kenya Project." Their offerings, together with a portion of the proceeds from selling prints of the "Gathering of the Father's Family" painting by Ennis, Texas, pastor Dick Moody, provided funds for the purchase of a water purifier and well-drilling equipment.

Around Christmas of 1992, it

appeared the machines — along with two self-contained field kitchens — were bound for Somali refugee camps in Kenya. At the time, about a half-million Somalis occupied tent cities along the Somalia/Kenya/Ethiopia border.

Stalled by bureaucracy

However, the 8.5-ton container housing the equipment inexplicably was misplaced on the dock in Houston. When it eventually was located and the hardware was shipped to Mombasa, Kenya, delivery was held up by a governmental dispute over tariffs.

This spring, the shipment finally was released. Three Texas Baptist volunteers — Gary Smith of

Midway Road Church in Dallas; George Singleton of Calvary Church in Sulphur Springs; and Powell Adams of First Church in Lubbock — journeyed to Kenya to set up the equipment and provide training to Southern Baptist missionaries and Kenyan Baptist workers.

Delay helped present drought

"We couldn't understand why the container couldn't get to people who needed it, but it all worked out according to God's timing," said Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men.

"God is always at work around us. The Father never has any surprises. The drought in Kenya is worse now that it was when the shipment was first planned. And it looks as if the equipment intended for Somali refugees now may be used to help refugees from Rwanda."

The water purifier was tested at the Brackenhurst Baptist International Center, about 25 miles from Nairobi. The purifier and the field kitchens were given to the Baptist Mission of Kenya for use in future disaster relief.

Officials at Brackenhurst have been asked by the U.S. Embassy to remain on alert to provide housing for refugees.

The water well-drilling rig was field-tested at Limuru, in northern Kenya, and then set up at Nairobi's Rossalyn Academy, which is attended by about 300 Kenyan national Baptists and missionaries' children.

"Even in a city like Nairobi with 1.5 million people, there is no reliability when it comes to having available water," Smith said. "But that's a minor inconvenience compared to rural areas where the available water supply is whatever a person can carry from any old polluted stream."

Anxious for water

Although Kenya has fertile soil and a year-round growing season, much potentially productive land goes unused due to lack of water. In many areas, however, a plentiful water table rests less than 200 feet below the surface, Smith said.

But as anxious as the Kenyans are to have well water, they are even more anxious to drink from springs of "living water," the Texas volunteers reported.

During their Easter season mission trip to Kenya, the Texas Baptists experienced a slight delay in their work due to a labor shortage resulting from a most-welcomed cause.

"Gary Smith called to tell us that he couldn't find enough workers," Dixon said. "So many Muslims were becoming followers of Christ, and they wouldn't work on Crucifixion Friday or Resurrection Sunday."

Camp and Scott are PR writers, BGCT.

Thursday, May 19, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



A friend of missions

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin from Clinton greets fellow Mississippian and mission donor Heywood Washburn (right) of Tupelo after the board's historic April 26 missionary appointment service in Fort Worth. With the appointment of 33 missionaries there, the Southern Baptist missionary force topped 4,000 for the first time, moving the denomination closer to its goal of having 5,000 missionaries overseas by A.D. 2000. Washburn, standing beside international flags after the service at Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, was recognized during the board's April 27 business session for contributions of more than \$1 million to the agency. Washburn, a member of Calvary Church in Tupelo, has financed two trusts, each worth more than \$500,000, which will benefit foreign missions. (FMB photo by Toby Druin)

Burundi missionaries find house stripped bare; tension persists

By Craig Bird

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP) — Thieves stripped bare a house belonging to Southern Baptist missionaries in tense Bujumbura, Burundi — taking even windows and light fixtures.

Missionary Jeff Polglase expected the house would be looted since buildings all around it had been emptied earlier. But the morning after he loaded his car with his family's most important possessions, he found the house totally cleaned out.

Polglase's wife Mary had left Burundi earlier for Kenya to put their children in school in Nairobi and get ready for an upcoming furlough. Polglase, who has since joined them, had been spending nights with other missionaries gathered for safety at a mission guesthouse in Bujumbura and working out of his home during the day.

Burundi, tense for more than six months, has experienced some heavy fighting in recent weeks as the army, dominated

by the Tutsi tribe, has attempted to disarm civilians of the Hutu tribe in the ongoing ethnic conflict. Violence between the two groups has turned neighboring Rwanda into a killing field.

Southern Baptist missionaries John and Sharon Pond and Dennis and Margaret McCall, who have spent almost a month at the Bujumbura mission guesthouse, have made periodic visits to their homes in northern Burundi.

Everything appeared calm in their area, they reported. They expressed a hope they could soon resume their work.

Three other Southern Baptist missionary couples assigned to Burundi have temporarily left the country on vacations.

The official U.S. Embassy position remains that American missionaries who remain in the country should stay at the guesthouse in Bujumbura to facilitate any necessary evacuation.

Bird writes for the FMB.

26 Carey students to be summer missionaries

Twenty-six students from William Carey College will serve as short-time missionaries this summer in assignments in the U.S. and South Korea. The students will conduct a variety of activities, most targeting youths and children.

David Thurman, son of missionaries Tom and Gloria Thurman, will serve in South Korea under the auspices of the Mississippi Baptist Student Union.

Five other Carey students will serve in U.S. assignments through the Mississippi BSU. The students, with assignment, are: Kenne Morrison, Maryland/Delaware; Rhonda Phillips, Oregon; Jennifer Thornton, Iowa; Kevin Walker, California; and Laura Burnett, Northwest (U.S.) Revival Team.

Two other Carey students will serve in the U.S. under the auspices of the Home Mission Board.

They are Kim Baradell, Oklahoma, and Brian Bedsole, Utah.

The other 18 WCC missionaries will serve at state assemblies in Mississippi, Florida, and North Carolina.

Students serving at Mississippi Baptist facilities are: Camp Garaywa: Leanne Bennett, Kyra Fuqua, and Sonya Stacy; Gulfshore: Dee Dee Fortenberry and Sharee Worsham; Central Hills: Bobby Daniel; and Carey's Summer Youth Celebration: Gina Bishop, Casee Hayes, Christopher Holder, Jane Pounds, Paula Pounds, Jennifer Shearon, and Traci Stovall.

Other students with assignments are: Emily Cain and Jennifer Donohoo, Camp of the Rising Son; Cathy Downey, Lake Forest Ranch; Amber Matthews, Blue Lake and Lake Yale (Fla.) camps; and Sara Buckley, Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

BSSB women's consultant to become full-time post

NASHVILLE (BP)—Officials at the Baptist Sunday School Board are launching a national search for a full-time women's ministry consultant, citing the increasing demands on the part-time contract worker who was carrying the load.

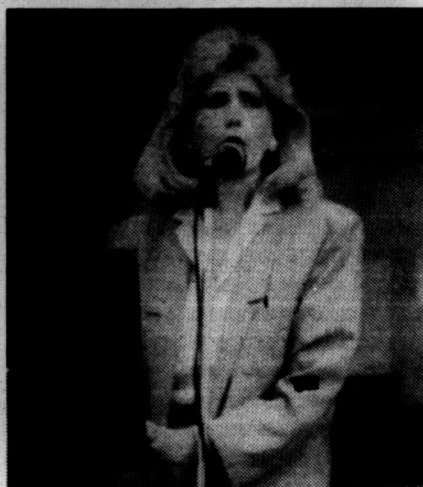
Denise George, a Birmingham, Ala.-based speaker and writer, resigned her part-time position as women's enrichment specialist to allow a full-time consultant to direct the ministry, according to John Kramp, associate director of the discipleship and family development division where administration of the ministry is housed.

"Women's ministry will provide churches with the best, most relevant programs, resources, and services to meet the distinctive needs of women, enabling them to experience enrichment through

their relationship with Christ. Women will be encouraged to reach their Christian potential through Bible-based study, prayer, worship, fellowship, and evangelism. Women's ministry will undergird and support the total ministry and mission of local churches."

"We will seek to accomplish this through resources, training, magazines, enrichment events, consultations, and networking with other organizations such as the Woman's Missionary Union," Kramp said.

Kramp said suggestions about women's enrichment ministry or nominees for the consultant position may be directed to Women's Enrichment Ministry, Baptist Sunday School Board, Mail Stop 149, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234.



National Day of Prayer

Claiming 2 Chronicles 7:14, citizens of Senatobia gathered in front of their city hall (top photo) at noon May 5 to observe the National Day of Prayer. Eddie Lawrence, pastor of Highland Church there, was present with his children (left, in above left photo), along with about "25-30 members" of that congregation. "It's really a blessing to see all these churches represented,.... all the people. It's wonderful," said Lawrence. First Church, Senatobia, was also well-represented. First Church's pastor, James Burke, was present, along with members of other area denominations. Cynthia Todd (above, right), a member of the First United Methodist Church in Senatobia, was local spokesperson for the event. Coordinated by local committees in towns across the country, National Day of Prayer serves as a time when Christians can cross denominational lines and gather to lift their nation up to the Lord. (Photos by Shannon T. Simpson)

I'll Fly Away — Simpson Co. pastor's vocation makes for great opportunities

By Guy Henderson

Pete Pierson is not the "bird man" of Simpson County, but he comes close. Pierson is in his fourth year as pastor of the New Bethlehem Church, north of Magee. The lovely brick church building and pastor's home are the right distance from the city for Pete and his hobby.

Pierson raises "roller" pigeons and "homing" pigeons. The roller pigeons are known for their aerobatics — rolling over in a graceful way while in flight.

The birds mate for life, and as long as the female can hear the male "cooing," she will not let another male near her. Usually the pigeons will lay two eggs, and the pair takes turns sitting on the nest. The male sits on it during the day and the hen at night. It takes both to feed the young (they are fed by regurgitation).

Pierson and his son Allen, 13, daily care for the birds, feeding them a special pigeon food. Pierson has also hand-rigged an automatic watering system.

A good pair of birds, Pierson says, will cost \$150 to \$300 —

some have sold for \$2,000. Of course, some are inferior and are much cheaper. The *Pigeon Journal* keeps the Piersons informed of price, location, and news of fellow pigeon raisers.



One almost gets away from Allen Pierson, 13, son of Pete Pierson, pastor of New Bethlehem Church, Simpson County.

Author lists suggestions for reaching secular people

OLIVE BRANCH (BP) — For churches truly interested in reaching secular people — those with little or no exposure to Christianity — a theology dean suggested beginning with "active listening."

Speaking to state Sunday School leaders and managers from the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division meeting at Olive Branch, George G. Hunter III, dean of the E. Stanley Jones School of Evangelism and World Mission at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., listed eight other suggestions:

- Begin where they are (with their felt needs and at their knowledge level).

- Explain basic Christianity in their language from a reduced canon. For example, part of the Bible, such as portions of the Old Testament, will not be immediately useful. A good place to start is with the Gospels, especially Luke.

- Practice the miracle of dialogue. Realize you already have the answers to some of the questions people are asking; you do not have, for now, the answers to others; and you cannot find intellectually satisfying answers to still others (e.g. "Why does God allow suffering and pain?").

- Understand the principle of cumulative effect. Nobody gets all the message the first time.

- Understand the principle of creative redundancy. Find new ways to share the same message over and over.

- Realize assimilation usually

precedes commitment.

- Apply the truth that Christianity is more caught than taught.

- Invite an experiment of faith. Encourage them to try living for a time as if Christianity were true.

Hunter, author of *How to Reach Secular People*, has conducted numerous interviews with secular people and church leaders

Our assumption is that secular people share our viewpoints, interests.... They do not.

— Keith Wilkinson, MBCB

who are reaching them.

He also discussed several facets of the Christian message that engage the unchurched, such as: "You matter to God"; "You can experience appropriate self-esteem"; "You can make sense of your life"; "You can experience the power of God over addictions"; "You can cooperate with the kingdom of God"; and "You can become the person you were born to be."

For those church leaders who decide to embrace new methods to reach the unchurched, Hunter said managing the change is vital.

"People will resist the loss of the known and the tried. People tend to be uncomfortable with uncertainty. They will agree to embrace the change when they think it is worth the effort, when

the new has advantages that they understand and desire."

What will help create commitment to the change effort? "The more people are involved in decisions that directly affect them, the more they are committed to implementing those decisions. In other words, get people involved in the problem and get them involved in developing a solution."

Hunter said church leaders also must be sure any change is God's will for their congregation.

"Decide what God is calling you to do. Throughout the process, root it in Scripture, bathe it in prayer."

Keith Wilkinson, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department, said Hunter's remarks "challenged us to consider the increasingly secular experience of people our churches are needing to reach."

"Our assumption," Wilkinson suggested, "is that secular people share our viewpoints, interests, and general mindsets. They do not."

"We need to listen to people and learn their needs so that we may have the opportunity to share the gospel," he declared. "Our churches must consider providing Bible study groups that meet the needs and reflect the cultures of people that need to be reached."

"Like the apostles," he concluded, "we must interpret the gospel message in the language of the people God is reaching out to."



The semi-rural location of the New Bethlehem Church's building (above) and pastorium are ideal for Pastor Pete Pierson's hobby — raising and training pigeons. Pierson's son helps care for the birds (below).



HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 19, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

EXPERIENCING GOD WEEKEND PLANNED

By Sidney Ellis, State Church Renewal
Coordinator

God is standing on the threshold of Heaven, desiring his people to have a love relationship with him. When this love relationship with the Father becomes a reality in the life of Christians, they begin to experience God. They begin to know and do the will of God.

Many churches in Mississippi have been teaching the LIFE (Lay Institute For Equipping) study of *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. Exciting reports are coming from these churches. Through this thirteen-week personal daily study, people are learning that they can experience God. The small group meets once a week for sharing the materials studied during the prior week and to view a videotape by Henry Blackaby. Church members learn how to have that love relationship, and they begin to understand how to know and do the will of God.

The Brotherhood Department is endeavoring to expand its Church Renewal Journey with another weekend entitled, "Experiencing God Weekend." The Brotherhood Department, in cooperation with Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson, will pilot this weekend on August 19-21, 1994. Don Gibson, Director of Lay Ministries for Texas Baptist Men, will lead in this pilot effort. His secretary, Jeanette Nichols, will coordinate the children's activities.

The "Experiencing God Weekend" is designed to introduce and encourage churches and individuals to become involved in Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. The weekend experience in no way takes the place of the thirteen-week study. It primarily exposes each participant to the seven realities of how God works through His people to accomplish His purpose. Following the weekend, the goal is to have as many people in any given church go through Experiencing God as a whole body of believers.

Experiencing God... continued on back

THE Music Celebration for Youth

July 9-13, 1994

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Mississippi

FOR 7TH THROUGH
12TH GRADERS

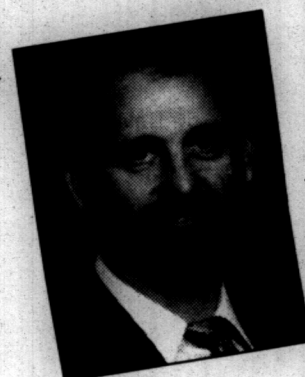


Youth will rehearse and perform the
HOT NEW MUSICAL
by Dennis and Nan Allen
**THE
BASICS
of LIFE**

Directed by
Byron Cutrer



Camp Pastor
MARK COON



HeartSong '94 opportunities for your youth include: worship and praise times; Bible study and family group times; music, drama and craft classes; planned recreation; choral and instrumental rehearsals; a talent show; and performance opportunities.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN AT HEARTSONG '94 ?

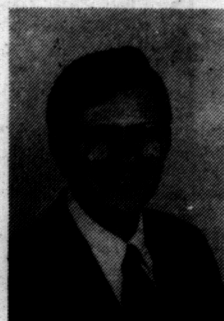
- Youth can come to know the Lord
- Lives can be changed
- New music and drama experiences
- Arts and crafts activities
- Put final touches on a summer choir tour or end of year concert
- Prepare six weeks of Sunday evening youth choir presentations
- Make new friends...some for a lifetime
- Individual performance opportunities: Playing instruments, singing, drama
- Participation in planned recreation
- Some churches may even hear their youth say "Why don't we start a youth choir?" or "Our youth choir can do that!"

CELEBRATING ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS WEEK • MAY 16-22, 1994

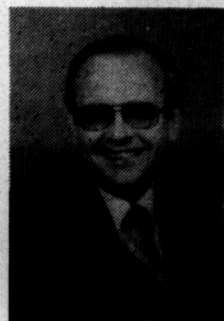
DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS IN MISSISSIPPI



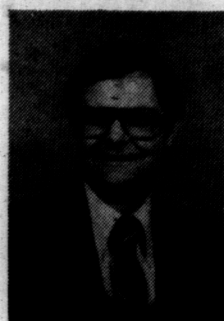
Edward Gandy
Alcorn



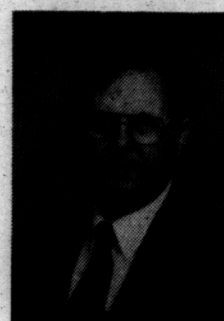
Bobby Waggoner
Attala



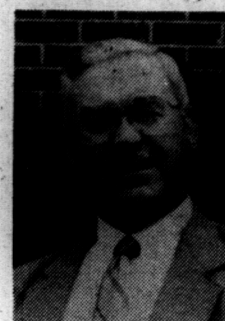
Bill McCreary
Benton-Tippah



Wayne Gullett
Calhoun



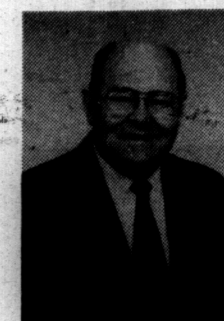
Ronald Ballard
Carroll & Montgomery



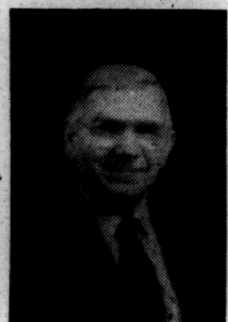
Wayne King
Chickasaw



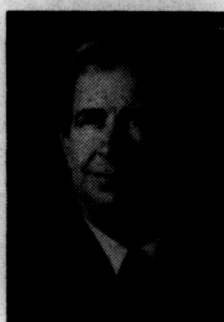
Charles Gordon
Choctaw & Webster



Grady Crowell
Clarke



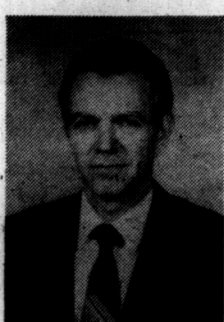
J.C. Mitchell
Clay, Lowndes, &
Oktibbeha



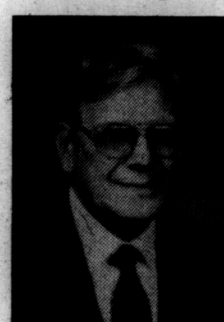
Talmadge Smith
Copiah & Lincoln



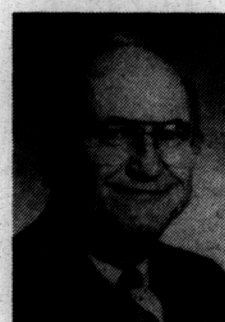
Leon Emery
Franklin



John Henry
George & Greene



Arthur Leslie
Grenada



Bobby Perry
Gulf Coast



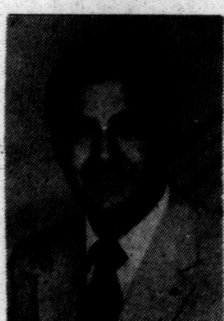
Jerald Welch
Holmes, Humphreys, &
LeFlore



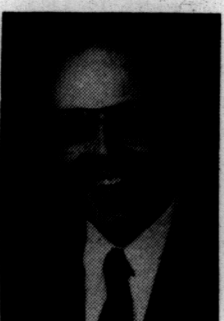
Howard Curbow
Itawamba



Ernest Sadler
Jackson County



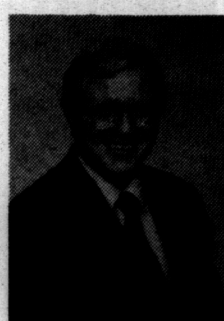
David Abbott
Jasper



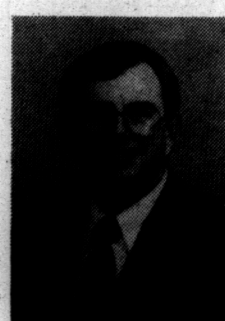
Allan Nix
Jones County



Don Stanfill
Lafayette & Marshall



Douglas Benedict
Lamar



Wayne Edwards
Lauderdale



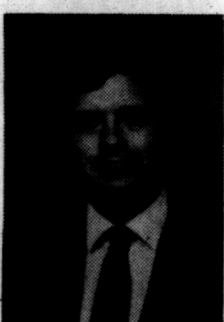
Archie Herrin
Lawrence, Marion, &
Walthall



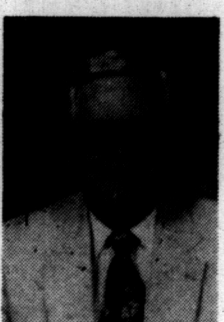
George Berger
Lebanon



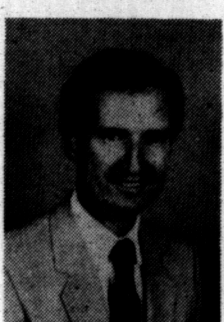
Jim Harrington
Monroe



John Sharp
Newton & Scott



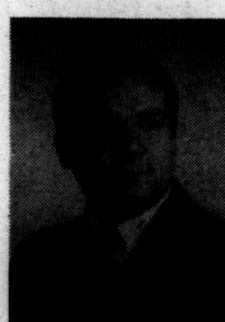
M. C. Johnson
North Delta &
Tallahatchie



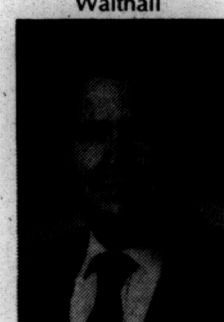
John Perkins
Northwest



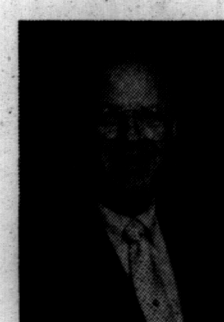
Walter Ballard
Panola



Kenneth Rhodes
Pearl River



George Steward
Pontotoc



Harris Counce
Prentiss Association



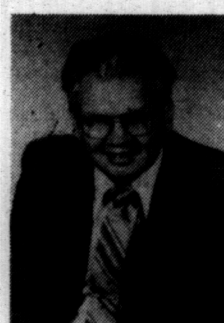
Allen Stephens
Rankin



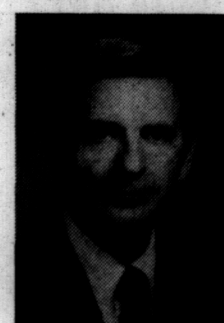
Farris Smith
Simpson County



Scott Walters
Smith County



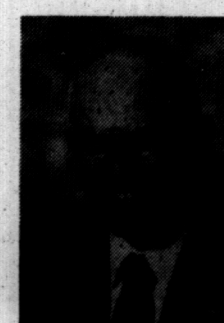
Roger Dorsett
Tishomingo



Roy Raddin
Washington County



Paul Blanchard
Winston



Hollis Bryant
Yalobusha

Directors of Missions not pictured: Dale Little, Adams & Union; Doyle Cummings, Bolivar County; Kenneth Stringer, Covington & Jeff Davis; J. W. Brister, Hinds-Madison; Paul Oglesbee, Kemper; Joe Abel, Leake; William P. Smith, III, Lee; J. Paul Jones, Mississippi; Leo Barker, Neshoba; Arthur Ben, New Choctaw; Leon Young, Noxubee; Glen Williams, W. D. Kirk, Sunflower County; Marvin Cox, Union County; Howard Smith, Warren & Yazoo; Lynn Mackey, Wayne. Currently Sharkey-Issaquena does not have a DOM, and Perry does not have a DOM position.

An association is churches lovingly and carefully woven together to create a unity in mission. It is a mission committed to starting churches, built on the belief that all types of churches reach all types of people. Together, churches in association are helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

*"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel."
Philippians 1:4-5 NIV*

HOUSE OF JESUS

GULFSHORE CONFERENCES

• • • simplified • • •

GROWING CHURCHES

*for
Tomorrow*

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian**

July 7-9

July 14-16

July 29-30

August 4-6

For reservations write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299, including a deposit of \$30 per person or \$60 per family.



This space is here to get three things across concerning the four Growing Churches for Tomorrow conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly this summer:



1 Any pastor or staffer or leader in Brotherhood, Discipleship Training, Sunday School, or Woman's Missionary Union can get specialized training at any of the four sessions.



2 All workers can get four-and-a-half hours of training in up to two program areas. This is especially for those with multiple responsibilities. And if you have only one program responsibility, you can get training in a number of special interest sessions.



3 Training for certain workers will only be offered one week. Bible Drill leaders and associational Discipleship Training directors can get training during the July 7-9 session. Ministers' wives, secretaries, and deacons can get training during the July 14-16 session. And Church Media Library leaders can get training during the July 28-30 session.

CONFERENCES FOR DEACONS, SECRETARIES, AND MINISTERS' WIVES

will be offered **ONLY** during the
July 1-16 Session of
Growing Churches for Tomorrow
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

These ministries are special assignments for the
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department

For more information, contact CA-PM Department
at (601) 968-3800 (**Julius Thompson, Director**)



Experiencing God... continued from front

On Friday afternoon, August 19, 1994, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, Don Gibson will lead an information and training session for interested pastors and our State Renewal Coordinators. At the same time Jeanette Nichols will lead those interested in children's work for the "Experiencing God Weekend."

This weekend has the same time schedule as the other renewal weekends. The visiting members will need to have had the *Experiencing God* study, but they will not be required to have prior experience as a renewal team member.

Anyone interested in attending the Friday afternoon session from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Experiencing God Weekend, or both, should contact the Brotherhood Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, or by phone (601) 968-3800. Prospective team members will be mailed an invitation letter near the end of June from Griffith Memorial Baptist Church. All prospective team members should have notified the Brotherhood Department before June 17, 1994.



URGENT NEED IN ALASKA

The Mt. Redoubt Baptist Church in Nikiski, Alaska, has been trying to complete their building for over a year. Last year several teams helped them and others will be going this year.

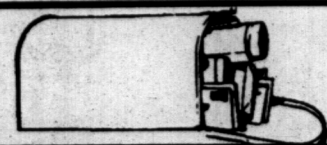
They are so near completion, but they have run out of funds. Their people have given and given, but the congregation is small and resources are very limited.

Any church or association desiring more information should contact the Partnership Missions office at (601) 968-3800 or write P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

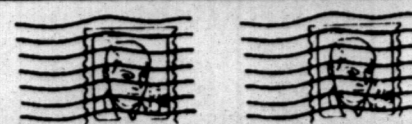
pray this day....

June 1-14, 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone: 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY			for a special father you know who has some special needs 1	for a special child you know who needs to be reconciled with a father 2	for fathers who find being a parent of a young adult child very difficult 3	for adult children who now find themselves as caregivers for elder- ly parents, finding the reversal of roles quite disconcerting 4
for adult parents who must accept caregiv- ing from their children and find it a more than difficult adjust- ment 5	that parents and chil- dren who have good relationships may keep them that way 6	for the father whose family makes financial demands he cannot fill 7	for families to find joy in togetherness 8	for the father who can- not be a part of his children's lives 9	that the entertainment media will be more responsible in helping to encourage family values and spiritual values 10	that Christian youth who have joined the work force since grad- uation will be able to maintain their princi- ples in their work place 11
that Christian camps will be able to enlist and maintain adequate leaders and workers for the summer 12	for fathers of foreign missionaries who wish they could have their grandchildren closer by more often 13	for the newly-wed young couples you know 14	June - the month when we honor fathers, the month of many wed- dings, the month of many new jobs for new high school graduates, the month of much outside activity, some of which can be dangerous... so, let us pray			



Letters to the editor



Please explain

Editor:

I read a letter from Louise H. Brooks in the May 5 issue (of *The Baptist Record*). She stated, "Southern Baptist churches are full of women who are or have been deacons." The only church named is First Church, Starkville. I would like to know how many other churches Brooks has in mind.

Times change. God's Word does not change. As for Brooks' statement: "What would the missionaries who go to various countries and start a church do without their wives? Are the wives not actually assistant pastors?" A wife adds much to the ministry of a missionary, as she does to a pastor in the States. The wife is not, however, an assistant pastor.

James K. Burke
Tylertown

Wolf in sheep's skin

Editor:

I would like to comment on the letter written by (Donald A.) Hemphill of April 28, and your comment on (President) Clinton's statement that "As a Christian I know God."

From the book of Matthew (7:21), "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father, who is in heaven." Possibly from this Scripture some well-known sayings have originated: "I had rather see a sermon than hear one," "What you do is so loud I cannot hear what you say." The list could go on and maybe each is a cliché, but they are widely used and understood.

Let's turn to the subject of Bill Clinton. One of his first appointments was to the important cabinet post of Surgeon General. To this cabinet job he appointed Joycelyn Elders from Arkansas. She has made many speeches and comments since being in office, and is an advocate of "sex education" being taught in kindergarten. I selected one of her statements that clearly describes her stand on morals, and since she was appointed by the President of the United States, must represent his character also: "We need to speak out to tell people that sex is good, sex is wonderful. It's a normal part and healthy part of our being, whether it is homosexual or heterosexual" (Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, in *The Advocate*, a gay magazine).

Mr. Editor and Mr. Hemphill — better check under that sheep skin, you might just be looking at a wolf.

Ken Gowan
Oxford

Function over faith?

Editor:

This parable is being written by a 79-year-old, born in the Rocky Creek community near Lucedale. In the Baptist church and at home, I was taught and believed that the Bible was the Word of God and that we were to believe it from "kiver to kiver." I also was taught that Jesus Christ was the only Savior and that we should believe in him to be saved and show it by obeying and loving one another.

These teachings finally led me to Chile as a missionary, appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

I formed a part of the Chile Mission, an organization of 24 missionaries in 1942, who were administrators of what the FMB did in Chile, in harmony with its guidelines.

More new missionaries came and by 1950, the Chile Mission was reorganized to "do it right."

But, more new missionaries came and those who were new in '42 were much older in 1960, so the newer ones did it again. They led in the reorganization of the Chile Mission to "do it right."

Now, with that background we came home for retirement in 1979. Pretty soon rumblings were in the air about changes in the Southern Baptist Convention. They began to take place. And they are still taking place. What I see is that the imperfect Bible-believing Christians who love the Lord will, not too far in the future, take a back seat while others will take their place to "do it right."

In the meantime, this retired Southern Baptist missionary is pastor of a small Southern Baptist church that gives through the Cooperative Program and the other special offerings. The members hear rumblings, but mainly keep on doing what they have learned to do through the years, hoping that the storm will pass. They just keep on believing that the Bible is the Word of God and Jesus is Lord and Savior and are trying to love one another and are reaching out to the needy world.

John A. Parker
Emeritus missionary
Lexington, Va.

Are we faithful?

Editor:

Society's news media has an interesting way of reminding the Christian community that we are lacking in sharing the gospel with zeal. How? Well, take for instance an "update" on the New Madrid fault line in which scientists again voiced concern of a major earthquake in mid-America. One that

would rip Memphis and spill the Mississippi River. The last time the "inevitable" earthquake was to occur, many began buying up insurance coverage for homes and businesses. And once again, as the predicted earthquake made front page news in Jackson, many will continue to buy coverage or at least re-think getting insurance.

Whether the quake will actually occur is not an issue of mine: being a faithful steward of the gospel is. Scientists are specialists in their field of study. They research and study daily. They know trends. They know what events must take place to warrant a warning of disaster. My friends, are we not "specialists"? It does not take a lot of research to know that Christ will return again. It does not take a lot of studying to know that those without Christ are headed for hell. A scientist can speculate toward the future with some degree of accuracy, but I know

beyond a shadow of a doubt about my future... and theirs. When Christ returns, the saved will go with him to heaven. The lost are left behind.

Scientists have warned that an earthquake may occur. Have we warned our neighbors and family that Christ will return? What would you say of a doctor or scientist who withheld information that could save thousands of lives? What do you think of Christians who withhold the witness of Christ and thereby withhold the blessings of God? Salvation and eternity are at stake, not "property."

My friends, you and I are stewards of the gospel of Christ! May we be found better and "more faithful" stewards of the gospel as scientists are with the knowledge they so freely share with society.

Randall Jenkins
Minister of education/activities
First Church
Philadelphia



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I am becoming a father for the first time and I am terrified. My father was abusive, and I explode over a lot of small things. How can I break this habit?

You have taken the first step by realizing there is a problem. Children who are brought up in abusive homes tend to be abusive themselves. That is not a reason to give up and say, "This is the way I am." Your future children need to see you working out this problem, recognizing your weaknesses, and doing something about it. Here are a few suggestions:

— Regular quiet time. This is essential for bringing in the power of God, finding the rest you need to deal with the trials of life, and maintaining your balance.

— Established exercise program. This enables you to work out frustrations and anxieties, and allows your body to cleanse itself of stress, conflict, and hurt.

— Good male friends. Ask the Lord to provide choice, honest men who will pray for and encourage you to be all you can be to your wife and children.

— Honesty. Tell your wife about your fears and invite her prayers and encouragement. She can be a support system, and she will know that she is needed by you.

Men like you who are honest with themselves make really great dads. Congratulations!

I have just found out that my soul mate betrayed me by telling the pastor's wife a confidence I shared with her. In my hurt, I rotate between leaving the church, seeking vengeance, or crying. What should I do?

Start with the crying. Go ahead and grieve for the loss of something very precious—a trusting relationship.

Only your friend can answer the question, "Why?", and even she may not know why she did it.

Have you confronted your friend, not vengefully but simply as an opportunity to get the facts?

If your friend is truly your "soul mate," she can withstand the confrontation.

What will the pastor's wife do with the information? How did your friend feel that telling the pastor's wife would help you? Was your friend overwhelmed with the responsibility of your confidence?

By confronting your friend, you can move more quickly through the hurt and grief and on to forgiveness and healing.

Hurt is part of the package in human relationships. We don't like it but it allows us to grow. Keeping hurt locked inside increases the tendencies toward depression and anger.

Grieve, pray, prepare your questions, and confront your friend so you can move through this valley and continue to grow.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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Lake Forest's Executive Director, Rich Malone, has previously

served as the Youth Minister at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, and for 10 years was the Chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference. All the staff at Lake Forest Ranch are committed to providing the best Christian recreational retreats possible.

Lake Forest offers week long summer camps for Junior and Senior High youth, and even with the popularity of the camp, there are still a few great weeks available for this summer. They are June 19-25, July 17-23, July 24-30, July 31-Aug. 6. Call soon for more information.



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Just for the Record



Westside Church, Bruce, recently held a note burning ceremony in celebration of the retirement of the debt on its pastorium and sanctuary renovations. The ceremony was led by the pastor, Walter Simmons, and deacons, Johnny Mayhan, chairman.



RAs of Hardy Church, Grenada, raised over \$500 for home missions through a kite-flying contest. Pictured above, left to right, are: front row, Keith Harris, Jonathan Adams, Justin Harris, Jonathan Harris; second row, Justin Selvy, Justin Brown, Seth Davidson, Ray Adams; back row, J. Courtney Selvy, pastor, and Rickey Harris and Steve Smart, counselors.

Walnut Grove Church, Leake Association, surpassed its goal of \$1,750 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, with a final total of \$1,760. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

Florida Baptist Family Ministries, located in Lakeland, Fla., is conducting a search for a president. Individuals should send their resumes by July 15 to: Patti

McLauchlin, Personnel committee chairperson, P.O. Box 5748, Key West, FL 33045.

First Church, Yazoo City, will host pianist Dino in concert May 28 at 7 p.m. in the church's sanctuary. The concert is part of the church's ongoing sesquicentennial anniversary celebration. For more information, call First, Yazoo City, at (601) 746-2471.

Staff Changes

Glade Church, Laurel, has called **Wesley Carter** as minister of youth, effective May 15. Carter is a student at Jones Junior College.

Glenn Coulter has resigned as minister of youth at **Hepzibah Church, Silver Creek**, effective May 22.

Sharber Smith has resigned as pastor of **Shady Grove First Church, Heidelberg**, effective May 8. He has accepted the call as pastor of **Rosemont Church, Niceville, Fla.**

Bethesda Church, Terry, has called **Curtis Price** as youth director. The Rankin County native is a student at Mississippi College.



First Church, McComb, recently held a banquet to honor fourth-through sixth-grade GAs (top photo), first-through third-grade GAs (above), and their parents. Forty-two girls were recognized for completion of their Mission Adventures achievement.



Doty Chapel Church, Shannon, recently recognized its GAs, Mission Friends, and Acteens in a special service under the theme, "Letting Our Light Shine." Kermit Brann is pastor.



Hathorn Church, Columbia, recently sponsored its third annual softball tournament to benefit the Baptist Children's Village. The winning team (pictured above) was made up of men from Antioch Church, Jefferson Davis County, and Oral Church, Lamar County. These churches, along with Goss Church, Society Hill Church, and other area congregations, participated in the day-long event, raising \$738 for the Children's Village.



Bethlehem Church (Jones) on Easter Sunday honored Sunday School workers who have served 25 or more years. Those honored were, left to right: front row, Frances Flowers, Arnold Flowers, Charles Gordon, Webster County director of missions, Jessye Mae Holifield, Pauline Liles, Robert Liles, Imogene Manning; second row, Eric Clark, Bill Crocker, Bob Davidson, Sunday School director, Mildred Davidson, Betty McGill, Inez Richards, Rachel Windham; back row, Jeanette Pitts, Jarvis Pitts, Lavada Rushton, Lorene Rushton, Myrtle Rushton, Max Rushton, Pat Taylor, Frances Douglas, and Valton Douglas, pastor. Not shown are Jewel and Tommy Bryan, Doris Clark, and Ruth Loper. Each worker received a certificate of appreciation.

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Homecomings

Antioch (Simpson): May 29; regular services; dinner on grounds; James Parker, Monroe, La., guest speaker; George Lewis, pastor.

Concord, McCall Creek: May 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner on grounds; afternoon service and special music, 1:15; Clarence Young, guest speaker.

Souenlovie, Enterprise: May 29; services, 10 a.m.; lunch, 12:30 p.m.; Jimmy Sanders, guest speaker; Simms Family, Florence, guest singers; Parker Chancellor, pastor.

County Line (Copiah): May 29;

services, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds, noon; Gray Allison, Memphis, guest speaker; Don Payne, pastor.

Temple, Jackson: May 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner on grounds, noon; no night services; Wayne Crenshaw, guest speaker; Howard T. Scarborough, pastor.

Antioch (Lawrence): May 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:50; Lunch in fellowship hall, noon; singing, Obadiah Quartet, 1:30 p.m.; Leon Wallace, interim pastor, speaker.

Missionary News

Robert and Veronica Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 200, 17600-910 Tupa, SP, Brazil). He was born in Alabama and grew up in Tennessee. She is the former Veronica (Ronnie) Wheeler of Sandersville.

Steve and Vidonia Smith, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field (address: Casilla 223, 8300 Neuquen, Argentina). He

was born in California and considers Hattiesburg his hometown. The former Vidonia Smith was born in Texas and considers White Oak her hometown.

Clifford and Bettye Scarborough, missionaries to Belize, are in the States (address: P.O. Box 6567, Biloxi, MS 39532). He is a native of Alabama. The former Bettye Oliver was born in Alabama.

Revival Results

Bethlehem and Oakland Grove (both Jones): simultaneous revivals, March 20-23; Don Stanley and Dave Walton, Spartanburg, S.C., evangelists, alternated between churches; Jimmy Knight and Ron Hamilton, music; Bethlehem, two professions of faith; Oakland Grove, eight professions of faith.

Alexander Memorial, Hollandale: April 17-20; Larry Duncan, Forest, evangelist; Curtis Carter, Raymond, music; five rededica-

tions; Michael McLendon, pastor.

First, Marion: April 24-27; Danny Lanier, Meridian, evangelist; Everett Sollie, Leeds, Ala., music; six professions of faith; Walter Blackman, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: April 17-22; Andre Dobson, Louisville, evangelist; C.C. Burns, Enterprise, music; seven professions of faith; Edward Knox, pastor.

Southside, Jackson: April 24-27; Donnie Guy, Long Beach, evangelist; Richard Patrick, music; 21 professions of faith; Donald Bozeman, pastor.

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Revival Dates

First, Tutwiler: May 29-June 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 nightly; Carl Pre-witt, Jackson, evangelist; Dave Jennings, Clarksdale, music; J.B. Hays Jr., pastor.

County Line (Neshoba): May 29-June 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Dwight Fortenberry, evangelist; Mark Jones, Carthage, music; Barron Pilgrim, pastor.

Antioch (Simpson): May 22-27; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Larry Duncan, evangelist; Dusty Rhodes, music; George Lewis, pastor.

Twin prayer conferences scheduled

Identical prayer conferences will be held at Emmanuel Church, Grenada, May 24 and First Church, Hattiesburg, May 26, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person (for luncheon), and registration is required.

Brochures publicizing the events originally stated the Grenada conference would be held at First Church, Grenada, but Emmanuel Church is the correct site.

These conferences are for any church or individual wishing to start or maintain a prayer ministry.

For more information, call Wilda Fancher, prayer ministry coordinator, at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, (601) 968-3800.

Slayden marks 125th year

Slayden Church, Lamar, will celebrate Heritage Day in observance of its 125th anniversary on May 22.

The day's activities will begin with a 10:30 a.m. worship service, followed by a covered dish dinner on the grounds at 11:45, and dedication services for the church's new sanctuary at 2 p.m. The celebration will include a school reunion.

For more information, contact the church at (601) 252-4520. Bill Hardin is pastor.

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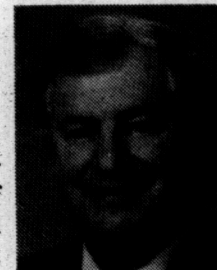
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Blackaby, Owens to lead Fresh Encounter

Henry T. Blackaby and Ron and Patricia Owens will be featured leaders during a May 27-28 Fresh Encounter conference at Fairview Church, Columbus. The conference begins at 7 p.m. on Friday and concludes at noon on Saturday.

The conference also features a Friday afternoon session specifically designed for church staff members and their spouses. The meeting begins at 3 p.m. and ends with dinner. Cost for the meal is \$5 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Fairview Church at (601) 328-2924.

Blackaby will be the teacher during the weekend event. He is co-author of *Fresh Encounter*:



Blackaby

God's Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening. He is director of the Home Mission Board's Office of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening and serves as prayer and spiritual awakening consultant with the Foreign Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Owens will lead music during the two-day conference. They are published musicians with some 75 songs, a choral collection, and three cantatas in circulation. Ron is associate to Blackaby at the HMB.

Pre-registration for the event is not required, but would be helpful. Call Golden Triangle Missions, sponsor of the event, at (601) 328-6802 to register or for more information.



Owens

Bill Henry named to direct National Student Ministry

NASHVILLE (BP) — Bill Henry, associate director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry, has been named director of the department, according to Roy Edgemon, director of the discipleship and family development division.

Henry, 47, will succeed Charles Johnson who will retire July 1. Edgemon said Henry and Johnson will work together during June to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

Meanwhile, as part of ongoing efforts to streamline operations for financial stability in the division and the board as a whole, Edgemon said four National Student Ministry positions have been eliminated. These include three professional and one support staff position. Affected employees will receive career transition and outplacement assistance, along with severance pay based on years of service.

"These have been difficult decisions and we deeply regret the impact on these four employees," Edgemon said.

"However, our need to allocate resources for maximum effectiveness is a priority throughout the

division. This in no way diminishes our support for the program of student ministry. We are absolutely committed to enhancing its effectiveness by working with state conventions, associations and campus, and church leaders," Edgemon said.

Prior to joining the BSSB staff in 1984, Henry served 13 years as associate director of the student department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Henry holds a bachelor's degree from Belmont University, Nashville, and master's and doctorate degrees from Vanderbilt University. He also attended Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Names in the News

Allen Harris, minister of music at North Oxford Church, will be in concert at Raymond Church, Raymond, May 22 at 6 p.m. Harris' wife Vickie will join him during the concert. They will be accompanied by Joann Flynt, pianist, and Faye Minton, organist. Tommy Jarrett is pastor of Raymond Church. For more information call (601) 857-5501.

Alda Michel fatally injured in Nashville auto accident

Alda Lee Nichols Michel, 65, mother of David Michel, director of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, died May 14. The car she was driving skidded off a rain-slick street in Nashville and crashed into a tree.

Funeral services were held May 18 at Belmont Heights Church in Nashville, where her husband, Perry A. Michel, serves as pastor. Private entombment followed at Woodlawn Cross Mausoleum in

Nashville.

In addition to her husband and son David, she is survived by two other sons, Kenneth and Ralph; her mother, Lula Nichols; and two grandchildren, Andrew and Rachel, whose parents are David and wife Marilyn.

The family has requested that contributions in lieu of flowers be made to the Belmont Heights Book of Golden Memories, Belmont Heights Church, 2100 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212.

Uniform Enabled to bear fruit



By Doug Bain
Galatians 5

They hang there in clusters by the handfuls — blackberries begging, "Pick me, pick me," offering up the fruit of their growth, the fruition of their destiny, the taste of nature, the flavor of the good earth. It won't be long now before we get the repellent for the insects, the hoe for the snakes, and the buckets for the berries, hoping that once again the branches abide in the vine and bear fruit. Whether the world awaits, ignores, or disdains Christian fruit-bearing, it is our destiny through the Spirit, to be set free, enabled to bear fruit.

Set free for freedom (v. 1). "For the freedom — us — Christ decisively brought to freedom." Word for word, this is how the original translates. For the incredible reality of freedom with its terrible burden and its fragile and delicate nature, for this privilege and this responsibility, Christ himself decisively and definitively freed us.

Freedom is from the life of the "flesh" — self-energized and self-oriented ways of securing for ourselves a place of status and significance. Freedom is for the life of the spirit — in faith relationship exposing our deepest needs to God's gracious providence so that any striving is for the righteous empire and not our own. Freedom is for bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Freedom to love (vv. 13-15). Freedom is also for the life of *agape* loving. The life of the flesh is basically self-targeted and self-directed and scarcely looks like anything resembling sacrifice or servanthood. But part of the burden of freedom is the pain of loving. "Free" is freedom to take the risk of loving, to grant the other person integrity and space of their own, to let the other be right — or be wrong — without recrimination, freedom to grant the other dignity although different, to let the other mature and create in line with the seeds of unique personal gifts, free to do the hard work of loving instead of loving only when feeling like it.

"Yourselves — for freedom — you were decisively called," reads the original, "through the means of *agape* love (as sacrificial, accepting, redemptive) go on serving one another (as bond servants)." This is diametrically opposed to letting your "freedom be an occasion for the advantages of the 'flesh'" (v. 13).

Shiloh and paradise lost (vv. 16-21). The human heart is a battlefield in that civil war between flesh and spirit — two regions of the same territory at war. And if flesh ultimately wins, the kingdom is lost (vv. 17 & 21b). "Those who do these things will not possess the kingdom of God" (TEV).

Flesh and spirit are two distinctly different ways of doing the basic business of life, with the results of each seen in verses 16-21 and 22-26. Flesh is the grasping and insecure human nature whose energies are organized out from under the lordship of Christ. It is human nature not yet touched and transformed by redemptive love. Its values are still informed by the value scale of this world. Flesh is the receptor capacity in humans that reflects this world. And when one does the basic business of life on the basis of flesh, life takes the shape described in verses 19-21 — self-indulgent, divisive, superstitious, idolatrous, desperately grasping.

Living on the basis of "spirit," on the other hand, delimits our own ingenious manipulative power to force life to happen and engages that faculty of the person that lets life happen on the basis of empowered spirit.

"Flesh" is living in the old humanity of first Adam, manipulating, grasping for value. "Spirit" is living in the New Humanity of Second Adam, through faith energized by God's Spirit, receiving our value from him, with the fruit seen in verses 22-26.

Bearing fruit (vv. 22-26). The "fruit of the Spirit" is the kind of experience produced when we live on the basis of spirit as that is energized by God's Spirit. Such fruit is pure gift from beyond, not arising from our own ingenious efforts.

To "bear fruit" is to bear the fruit in our lives which the Spirit produces. For the branch that abides in the Vine, the fruit hangs there in clusters, offering itself to the hungry world — love, joy, peace — all fruit of the Spirit!

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book Help in time of tribulation



By Dan Howard
John 16

I read about a submarine that was on patrol during wartime and had to remain submerged overnight. When it resurfaced the next day, a friend on another ship radioed the captain, "How did you fare in that terrible storm last night?"

Surprised, the captain exclaimed, "What storm? We didn't know there was one!"

Although the ocean's surface had been whipped into huge waves by high winds, the vessel was not affected because the waters below remained calm and tranquil. A.T. Pierson described God's peace as, "That eternal calm which lies far too deep in the praying, trusting soul to be reached by any external disturbances."

The disciples' joy (vv. 19-24). Jesus was trying to prepare his disciples for his death and resurrection. They were puzzled over the things Jesus was saying. Jesus knows what we need. In an effort to help them, Jesus asked his disciples about their perplexity. The period that they would not behold him refers to the time of his crucifixion and death. The period that they would see him refers to the time of his resurrection.

Jesus went on to tell them that they would experience deep sorrow at his death while the world would rejoice. Their sorrow would be turned to joy when his resurrection occurred. Jesus illustrated this by describing how the pain of childbirth is replaced by joy when the child is born. The joy which Jesus brings into our lives is an everlasting joy and not a circumstantial joy.

Jesus told his disciples that another source of joy could be found in their prayer life. Because of the resurrection they would have direct access into God's presence. They would also have the joy of making requests in the name of Jesus. Before Jesus came they made requests to the Father, but now they would ask the Father in the name of the Son. Asking in Jesus' name means that we ask in accordance with his will and purpose. When we ask in this way we are told that he will answer our prayers. Answered prayers will be a source of joy for his disciples.

The disciples' relationship to the Father (vv. 25-27, 30). Jesus stated that he had been speaking to them in figurative language which they might not understand completely until after the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit. They would understand his teachings about the Father when that time came. These teachings would reveal a new relationship to the Father. As believers, we have direct access to the Father when we pray. Because the believer loves Jesus and believes that Jesus came from God, the Father loves the believer. The Father will receive and listen to the believer without being begged by Jesus to receive him.

A promise of peace in tribulation (vv. 31-33). Jesus stated that even though everyone would leave him, he would not be alone because the Father was with him. As Christians it is great to know that we too are never alone. We are never without the help of the Lord.

This fact is important because Jesus stated that as long as we are in the world we will have trials and tribulations. No one is exempt. When those times of difficulty come, Jesus is present to offer us his peace which includes security, assurance, strength, etc. The peace which he brings is a peace which is beyond all human understanding. We can have confidence in him and the peace he brings because he won the victory over sin, death, and the world.

J. Oswald Sanders said, "Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God."

Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work Declaring the only way



By Billie Buckley
Philippians 3

Have you ever played mind games with road signs? One day as we drove to an out-of-state ball game, I got to playing this game. The first sign that got my attention was "Rest Area — 1 Mile."

Anybody out there who would like to find a quiet rest area in his life, pull off the road, and do nothing for an eon or two?

One day Paul sent a letter, and in it he wrote, "This one thing I do."

Can you imagine that? One thing. How simple life would be if we had only one thing to do. Instead, we feel like we are called on to perform daily as carnival jugglers.

I think that's what Robert Frost had in mind when he wrote:

"The woods are lovely, dark, and deep; But I have miles to go before I sleep; and promises to keep."

As I see it, the problem is how can we as modern-day Christians do one thing or juggle just one ball. Better still, what is that one ball we need to center on so that all the others stay in place?

Our Sunday School lesson for this week, "Declaring the only way," can help us with this problem. Let's continue to use road signs to highlight the way.

Stop (vv. 1-2). This is a warning about a misleading lifestyle. "Beware" is the strong word used by Paul in these verses. Beware of that which is evil. Beware of that which is false.

That which is evil does not worship the living God. Evil does not glory in Christ Jesus, but in self. Self is glorified and satisfied and pacified at the expense of others.

That which is false places confidence in unholy aspirations based on escape routes that allow one to become frustrated and divided. Falsehood encourages excuses from our lips and rationalization from our minds.

The warning here is simple.

Stop and regroup. Stop and rearrange. Stop and rethink before you react to a misleading lifestyle.

Bridge may ice over in cold weather (vv. 3-4a). One way to identify the people of God is that their lives become "like a bridge over troubled water" for folks when they are in trouble.

For a Christian, this is more than sympathy or good deeds. Acts of caring in Jesus' name result in troubled lives becoming aware of Christ in their lives. A believer's true identity comes when others say of him or her, "There is no excuse for his/her life save Jesus Christ." Every act of caring points to God and bypasses us.

Wrong way (vv. 4b-7). This is a divine protest against worthless past honors. It is a veto against those worthless honors that don't make others aware of true Christianity.

If any man could have relied on his past honors, Paul could have. He was a Hebrew of all Hebrews; a devout follower of the letter of the law — a Pharisee. He had found righteousness according to the Old Testament law based on his goodness. He now knew that this was the wrong way to establish a love relationship with God. Paul learned the right way was through Jesus Christ. This way had nothing to do with honors but with faith.

Road construction ahead (vv. 8-9). This is our life under construction. The blueprint is based on the gift of righteousness. This gift comes from God and cannot be earned or deserved. You can't be smart enough to receive it; or humble enough; or pure enough.

Paul was put in right standing with God the same way you and I are put in right standing with him.

We acknowledge our lostness; we accept his way of escape from our lostness — his Son's willingness to take our punishment. We come into God's presence through our gift of salvation in Jesus' name. This is one construction that will never fall because of the storms of life.

Yield (vv. 10-11). When we yield, we give up the right-of-way to halfway commitment. We, along with Paul, hope to move in one direction. That direction is to experience fully more of Jesus in our lives — "the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering."

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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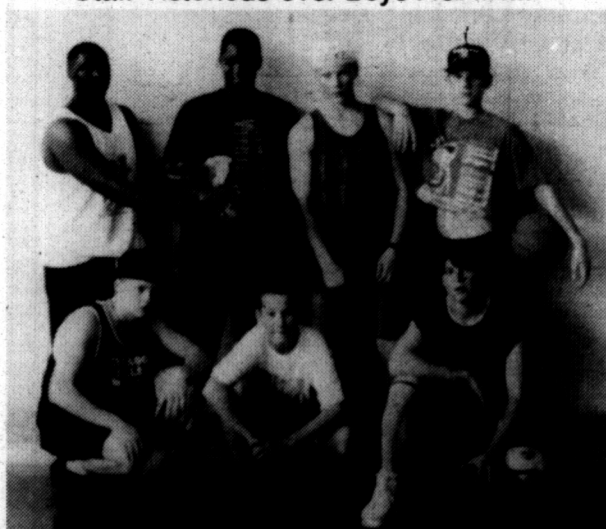
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Village staff train on the Ropes Course preparing for the summer experiences each child will participate in on The India Nunnery Campus. David Howard (top), Consultant with the Brotherhood of the SBC, led the training and is pictured giving instruction on belaying. Mike Crocker (bottom left), Unit Director on our Farrow Manor Campus, Independence, Miss., returns to earth after a high wire experience, assisted by Chaplain Chip Price and Counselor Kathy Saucier. Social Worker on The India Nunnery Campus (bottom right), Gene Van Every, is assisted up on the "Dangling Duo." What a TEAM!



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(to be continued)

capsules

SOMALIA FIGHTING FORCES BAPTIST WORKERS OUT AGAIN: MOGADISHU, Somalia (BP) — Southern Baptists working with relief agencies in Mogadishu, Somalia, have been forced out of the embattled city again. The last workers evacuated in late April — the day before all flights were canceled — after being escorted to the Mogadishu airport by United Nations peacekeepers in tanks. Several of the Southern Baptists had hoped to return in early May. But the outlook, as one worker described it, was "not optimistic.... We're anxious to resume work, but I don't see how we can have Americans riding around if (Somali warlord Mohammed Farah) Aideed's troops are everywhere — and right now he pretty much has the city under his control," the worker added.

CHRISTIAN RADIO HITS ROMANIAN AIRWAVES: BUCHAREST, Romania (EP) — Christian radio can be heard two hours each day in two Romanian cities, thanks to a partnership between HCJB World Radio, the Romanian Missionary Society, and the Evangelical Alliance of Romania. Broadcasting from the network "Voice of the Gospel," began April 10, and was heard in Suceava and Bucharest. From its international shortwave-transmitting site near Quito, Ecuador, HCJB (Heralding Christ Jesus' Blessings) broadcasts around the world in 40 languages and dialects.

FORMER OKLA. EXEC JOE INGRAM DIES: OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Joe Lynn Ingram, 74, former executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died May 8 at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He had been hospitalized since April 10 after becoming ill while touring England. His ailment was diagnosed as Legionnaire's Disease. Funeral services were held May 11 at Quail Springs Church in Oklahoma City, with burial in Oklahoma City. Ingram was Oklahoma Baptists' chief executive from 1971 until his 1986 retirement. Since then he had been president and CEO of Baptist Healthcare of Oklahoma, which owns or leases and manages 14 hospitals in the state.

END OF DUMPING MEANS END OF LIVELIHOOD FOR SMOKY MOUNTAIN DWELLERS: MANILA, Philippines (EP) — When a presidential order halted dumping at "Smoky Mountain," a Manila garbage dump, the poor people who lived and scavenged there had to find another way to eke out a living. Nemuel and Ruth Palma, who operate Smoky Mountain Ministries there, received gifts from Christian Aid Mission to purchase sewing machines to start a rug-making cottage industry which employs some of the dump-dwelling mothers.

WAKE FOREST GETS DIVINITY SCHOOL GRANT: WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP) — Wake Forest University has received a \$293,713 grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation of Philadelphia to help the school open a divinity school. The grant will allow the university to hire a theological educator on a short-term basis to structure the program, said Robert Spinks, development director for the divinity school. The university hopes to fill the position this summer, he said. Wake Forest is one of a handful of Baptist-oriented universities opening divinity schools or seminaries — a trend reflecting the recent upheaval at Southern Baptist seminaries and in theological education in general.

MICHAEL ENGLISH DROPPED BY RECORD LABEL: NASHVILLE (BP) — A week after Michael English swept the coveted Dove Awards of the Gospel Music Association (winning artist and male vocalist of the year, among others), the contemporary Christian artist has banished himself from musical Eden, and his label, Warner Alliance, has yanked its most profitable franchise. English and Marabeth Jordan, a singer with the gospel-jazz group First Call, had an affair and Jordan is pregnant with English's child, according to the GMA's president, Bruce Koblish. Both are married to others. Neither English nor Jordan have been available to reporters. She has been replaced in First Call.

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RGX XTSOS IFS YFCXXSV, XTIX QS NCKTX RSDC-
SPS XTIX LSOGO CO XTS ATFCOX, XTS OEV EB
KEJ; IVJ XTIX RSDCSPCVK QS NCKTX TIPS DCBS
XTFEGKT TCO VINS.

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Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Six: Eleven.

Hattiesburg teen tops in Bible Drill; Philadelphia youth garners second

By Wes Pegues

Laura Dunn, member of First Church, Hattiesburg (Lebanon Association), is Mississippi's 1994 State Bible Drills champion. She was crowned April 30 at Alta Woods Church in Jackson after a record-setting season of tournaments that culminated with her win at the state Selection Tournament.

Matt Stovall, member of Coldwater Church, Philadelphia (Neshoba Association), was runner-up to Dunn. Scott Wallace, member of Rocky Creek Church, George Association, was chosen as alternate.

Finalists included Christy Jackson, McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl; Jason Arledge, First Church, Shannon; Heather Martin, First Church, Hattiesburg; Jim Young, Hope Church, Philadelphia; Joseph Flippin, First Church, Water Valley; Amanda Moore, Linwood Church, Philadelphia; Chris Gaskin, West End Church, West Point; and Meg Harper, Stanton Church, Fayette.

Melody Anne Hanberry, member of Oral Church, Sumrall, was selected from among 63 eligible participants as winner of the \$500 Scholarship Selection Drill, designed to recognize nine-year Bible Drill participants. She plans to use the scholarship next fall at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

Dunn will represent Mississippi Baptists during Discipleship Training Week July 16-22 at Ridgecrest Assembly in North Carolina. Stovall will likewise

represent Mississippi Baptists July 12-18 at Glorieta Assembly in New Mexico.

In addition, the finalists will be part of a special demonstration Bible drill July 7-9 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

A new record of 2,709 children participated in the 1994 State Bible Drills, surpassing the previous year's total of 2,650.

Churches hosting Bible Drill tournaments included First, Biloxi; First, Senatobia; First, Greenwood; First, Brookhaven; First, Tupelo; Harrisburg, Tupelo; First, Starkville; Calvary, Starkville; Parkway, Jackson; First, Clinton; First, Hattiesburg; and First, Meridian.

The tournament is a project of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

(MBCB).

Pegues is youth consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB.



Pegues (left), Hanberry



(From left) Pegues, Dunn, Wallace, Stovall

Louisville's Lee judged best in state at Baptist Speakers Tournament

By Wes Pegues

Kris Lee, member of Wess Chapel Church, Louisville, took top honors in the annual Baptist Speakers Tournament, held April 30 at Alta Woods Church in Jackson.

The tournament is a project of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Baptist young people are encouraged to develop speeches from a list of topics and deliver the speeches in their home churches prior to an associational speakers tournament.

The speeches are judged according to content and delivery

at the associational tournament, and winners advance to the state competition.

Gayden Fisher, member of First Church, Indianola, placed second. State finalists included Amy Hensarling, Woodlawn Church, Edwards; and Jonathan Smith, DeKalb Church, DeKalb.

Lee will represent Mississippi Baptists during Discipleship Training Week July 16-22 at Ridgecrest Assembly in North Carolina. Fisher has been invited to deliver her speech during Super Summer at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, or at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian during

Growing Churches for Tomorrow Week. Hensarling and Smith have also been invited to the Gulfshore event.

Pegues is youth consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB.



(From left) Pegues, Lee, Fisher, Smith, Hensarling

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May 19, 1994